

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 EB-11 COME-00 FRB-02 NIC-01 DRC-01 ACDA-19

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5165

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO CSAF WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2022

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E.O. 11652: GDS, 31-12-80

TAGS: MASS, BEXP, NATO, MILI

SUBJECT: NATO AND THE AIRBORNE WARNING & CONTROL SYSTEM (AWACS)

REF: A. USNATO 5248

B. CHMAAG THE HAGUE 74059

SUMMARY. PROGRESS TOWARD A NATO DECISION TO PROCURE AWACS IS SLOW. AS POINTED OUT IN REFERENCE A AND REFERENCE B, BOTH A NATO MINIMUM MILITARY REQUIREMENT AND AN AGREED COMMON FUNDING METHOD WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE A NATO DECISION CAN BE REACHED. MISSION RECOMMENDS THREE PRONGED EFFORT TO AVOID UNDUE FURTHER DELAY. REQUEST WASHINGTON COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. SHAPE IS WORKING ON THE MILITARY REQUIREMENT AND IS SECRET

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EXPECTED TO STATE A REQUIREMENT FOR THE BASIC AEW FUNCTION AT THE 24-26 APRIL CNAD, ALTHOUGH IT WILL TAKE FROM 12-18 MONTHS TO DEVELOP A DETAILED REQUIRED OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY (ROC) AND OPERATIONAL CONCEPT FOR ALL

ASPECTS OF THE SYSTEM. NO ONE IS PRESENTLY TASKED TO CONSIDER THE FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT PROBLEM. THIS MUST BE PURSUED CONCURRENTLY RATHER THAN SEQUENTIALLY TO AVOID LOSING VALUABLE ADDITIONAL TIME.

2. MISSION SEES VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY FOR INFRA-STRUCTURE FUNDINGS OF AWACS WITHIN THE LEVEL OF 1975-79 FUNDING EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED DURING CURRENT BLOCK NEGOTIATIONS (400-500 M IAU'S). THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES ARE:

(A) A ONE-TIME EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTION TO INFRASTRUCTURE EARMARKED FOR AEW, WITHOUT IMPAIRING INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING OF OTHER HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMS.

(B) SEPARATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO AN INFRASTRUCTURE-LIKE ORGANIZATION, OR MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENT SIMILAR TO THE NATO-HAWK CONSORTIUM.

(C) EUROGROUP FUNDING UNDER THE EDIP (PROBLEM: SEVERAL NATO NATIONS INCLUDING THE US DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN EUROGROUP; ALSO EUROGROUP MAY TEND TO FAVOR A EUROPEAN AEW DEVELOPMENT).

(D) ONE OR MORE NATIONS (NOT NECESSARILY THE US) PROCURE AND OPERATE AWACS FOR NATO FOR CONSIDERATION IN KIND AS A PART OF SPECILIZATION/RATIONALIZATION (PROBLEM: LONG INVOLVED NEGOTIATIONS ON QUID PRO QUO COULD EASILY EXTEND PAST DECISION DEDLINE).

(E) THE US CONTRACT FOR A NATO AWACS SERVICE FOR A SPKECIFIC PERIOD FOR AN ANNUAL FEE THAT COVERS AMORTIZATION OF CAPITAL COSTS.

NOTE: THE LAST TWO ABOVE ARE LISTED AS POSSIBILITIES WHICH MAY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AT SOME TIME, BUT THEY SHOULD NOT NOW BE IDENTIFIED TO NATO AS THEY MIGHT APPEAR SECRET

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TOO EASY AND A WAY FOR NATO TO AVOID TACKLING THE TOUGH PROBLEM OF COMMON FUNDING.

3. MISSION FAVORS (A) ABOVE BECAUSE IT ASSURES COMMON FUNDING AND PARTICIPATION BY ALL NATIONS; HOWEVER, ACHIEVEMENT WILL BE DIFFICULT. SMALLER NATIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM AND DENMARK, HAVE STATED THEY WILL NOT CONSIDER SELECTING ONE OF THE THREE NATO AEW SYSTEM CANDIDATES UNTIL THE SHAPE REQUIRED OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY (ROC) AND OPERATIONAL CONCEPT ARE COMPLETED. THE ESTIMATE FOR THESE IS 12 TO 18 MONTHS. IF NATO WAITS FOR THESE TO BE COMPLETED TO ADDRESS THE FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT PROBLEM, CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL

TIME WILL BE LOST SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS AND NATIONAL APPROVALS. ALSO, EUROPEAN NATO NATIONS MAY STILL FEEL THAT THE US WILL EVENTUALLY DEPLOY AWACS TO EUROPE AT NO COST TO THEM.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS: IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT US EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE A NATO AWACS DECISION COVER THE FOLLOWING THREE MAIN POINTS:

(A) FIRST, THE RELATION BETWEEN THE US NATIONAL AWACS AND A NATO AEW SYSTEM SHOULD BE CLARIFIED; I.E., US DOMESTIC AND WORLD-WIDE REQUIREMENTS PRECLUDE INTRODUCING OR COMMITTING US AWACS IN EUROPE ON MORE THAN A TOKEN BASIS OR DURING LIMITED EXERCISES-- DEFINITELY NOT IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS TO SATISFY NATO REQUIREMENTS, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT THE NUMBER OF US AWACS HAS BEEN REDUCED. NATO SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ACQUIRE A SEPARATE AEW SYSTEM, ALBEIT WITH US PARTICIPATION, FOR USE UNDER SACEUR'S CONTROL. A RATHER STRAIGHT FORWARD EXPLANATION OF THE SITUATION BY THE US REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NAFAG, CNAD AND THE DPC SHOULD BE ADEQUATE.

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(B) SECONDLY, TOP PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO FORMING OR TASKING A HIGH LEVEL NATO BODY TO INVESTIGATE AND RECOMMEND A FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT CONCEPT FOR A NATO AEW PROGRAM, TO BE ACCOMPLISHED CONCURRENTLY WITH CNAD TECHNICAL

INVESTIGATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF SHAPR REQUIREMENTS RATHER THAN SEQUENTIALLY. IN THIS RESPECT US REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NAFAG, CNAD AND DPC SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT A RECOMMENDATION FROM NAFAG SUBGROUP 12 THAT THE MATTER OF MANAGING AND FUNDING A COMMON NATO AEW PROGRAM NEEDS EARLY HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION, AND TO URGE SUCH AN INVESTIGATION BY AN APPROPRIATE NATO BODY BE UNDERTAKEN IMMEDIATELY.

(C) LASTLY, AND PROBABLY MOST DIFFICULT, WILL BE TO PERSUADE NATO NATIONS THAT AWACS IS THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO THE EVENTUAL SHAPE ROC AND THAT THE FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY AWACS SUCH AS TRACKING TARGETS BELOW AND BEYOND THE RANGE OF GROUND BASED
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RADAR, SURVEILLANCE OF PACT AIR OPERATIONS AND DEPLOYMENT IN PEACETIME, AND INTEGRATION AND BACK-UP OF OTHER AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS, ARE SO VALUABLE THAT NATO CANNOT AFFORD TO PROCRASTINATE. THIS CASE MUST BE MADE IN THE NAFAG, CNAD, DPC, AND DURING CONTACTS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND NATO CAPITALS. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WASHINGTON PREPARE 1 15-20 MINUTE BRIEFING IN THE FORM OF A HARD-HITTING, BUT NOT TOO TECHNICAL, CONDENSATION OF THE BRIEFINGS ON REQUIREMENTS AND THE EUROPEAN DEMONSTRATION PRESENTED TO THE NAFAG SG-12 IN PARIS IN OCT 73.

5. THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER SECONDARY, BUT NEVERTHELESS IMPORTANT, FACTORS EFFECTING THE NATO AWACS DECISION:

(A) THREE SYSTEMS--THE E-3A, E-2C, AND A UK OVERLAND SYSTEM--HAVE BEEN PROPOSED AS COOPERATIVE NATO AEW PROGRAMS. SG-12 IS LOOSELY TASKED TO SELECT OR RECOMMEND ONE OF THE THREE, BUT SEVERAL MEMBER NATIONS ARE ADMANTLY OPPOSED TO ATTEMPTING THIS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL DATA. SG-12 WILL REQUEST NAFAG TO PERMIT IT TO CURTAIL ITS ACTIVITIES UNTIL RESULTS ARE RECEIVED FROM THE SPECIAL TASK GROUP (STG) ON AWACS. AT THAT TIME THE SUBGROUP WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO DELAY WAITING A SHAPE ROC AND OPERATIONAL CONCEPT, AND THEN CONCEIVABLY THE SUBGROUP COULD PROCRASTINATE UNTIL 1979-80 AWAITING COMPARABLE DATA ON THE UK SYSTEM. RECOMMENDATION: US REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NAFAG AND CNAD CALL ATTENTION TO THIS LACK OF PROGRESS AND URGE THAT SOME APPROPRIATE BODY BE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECOMMENDING THE BEST SYSTEM FOR NATO ON THE BASIS OF AVAILABLE DATA.

(B) CONSIDERABLE DOUBT REMAINS CONCERNING AWACS CAPABILITY TO SATISFY NATO AND UK MARITIME REQUIREMENTS. RECOMMENDATION: WHATEVER STUDIES OR INVESTIGATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE THE MARITIME CAPABILITY OF THE CORE

AWACS AND WHAT IT TAKES, IF ANYTHING, IN TERMS OF R&D, MODIFICATIONS, DOLLARS, AND TIME TO SATISFY NATO AND UK MARITIME REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE COMPLETED ON A PRIORITY BASIS.

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(C) IT APPEARS LIKELY A REQUIREMENT WILL EMERGE FOR AUTOMATIC TRACK INITIATION AND INCREASED TRACK CAPACITY FOR THE NATO AWACS VARIANT. THERE ARE ALSO QUESTIONS ON AIR-TO-GROUND COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY AND GROUND ENVIRONMENT INTERFACE WHICH COULD DELAY THE DECISION PROCESS PENDING COMPLETE ANSWERS ON FEASIBILITY AND COST OF ANY REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS. THE STG IS CURRENTLY STUDYING THESE SUBJECTS. RECOMMENDATION: THE US DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSIST THE STG IN EXPEDITING ITS EFFORTS AND TO TRY TO PUT THESE QUESTIONS TO REST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. MISSION REQUESTS WASHINGTON COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE.

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